Agricultural Modernisation

248. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has recently been conducted any study on the ongoing phase of agricultural modernisation in the country suggesting to create 50 million new jobs in the farm sector in the next five years mainly in skilled and technical categories;

(b) whether it is also suggested that traditional B.A., M.A., B.Sc, and M.Sc. degrees have no charm left, for not many jobs are available after these courses;

(c) if so, what alternative suggestions have been made by the study team; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) As per the available information, no such study has been conducted by the Government regarding creation of 50 million jobs in the farm sector in the next five year.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Review of Penalties Imposed on Kendriya Vidyalayas Employees

249. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of employees, of different categories, of Kendriya Vidyalayas, and regional and headquarter offices of Kendriya Vidyalayas whose penalties have been reviewed during the year 1996 by the KVS; and

(b) what are the justifications thereof in the each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) During 1996, the sangathan has examined the review petition submitted by a Primary Teacher and orders passed by the competent authority in accordance with Rule 29 of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 as extended to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan employees.

Fixing of Minimum Support Prices for Food and Other Crops

250. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been fixing the minimum support prices of food and other crops at higher rates than recomended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the extent to which such higher levels of minimum support prices have contributed to inflation during the last five years;

(c) the specific difference between the minimum support prices, procurement prices and maximum distribution prices and objectives thereof; and

(d) in what manner the objectives of these different categories of prices are sought to be achieved in practice?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The minimum support prices, by the large, have been fixed at the levels recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) barring a few exceptions. The Government decide on the price policy for agricultural commodities after taking into account the recommendations of the CACP the views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries and all other factors, which in the opinion of the Government, are important for fixation of minimum support prices, which sometimes call for some improvements in the prices recommended by the CACP. These factors may include the need to give impetus to production, to ensure higher procurement for meeting requirements of Public Distribution